(b) if so, by when the suitable amendments of related rules are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No Sir. The deposit ceiling under Public Provident Fund (PPF) Scheme continues to be Rs. 70,000/- per annum. There is no proposal to enhance this ceiling.

Poor Services of State Bank of Patiala, Karnal

162. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of Patiala has a branch extension counter in the premises of National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the bank is totally understaffed with the result that the existing staff do not render satisfactory and courteous service to the bank's clients, particularly the young scientists of NDRI, causing a lot of inconvenience to them; and

(c) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to enhance the staff-strength of the bank and ensure prompt and proper service to the bank's clients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As reported by the State Bank of Patiala (SBP) adequate staff has been provided at the branch. The branch recently introduced a new software i.e. Core Banking Solutions (CBS). As the software is new, there were some problems in its day-to-day functioning. The system has since stabilized and at present there is no problem. In order to ensure prompt and courteous service, the officials of the Bank hold meetings with the officials of National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI). The Director, NDRI has expressed satisfaction over the services rendered by the Branch.